

Application Number: 10/029,766Docket Number: 200302293-1**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Previously Presented) A computer system, comprising:
a central processor unit (CPU);
a programmable read only memory (ROM) coupled to said CPU, said ROM containing a digital image;
wherein said CPU programs its ROM during a system initialization, wherein the system initialization further comprises a booting of said system;
a connection to a network and wherein, during the system initialization, said system sends a message to a server coupled to the network to determine whether an upgraded image is available for said ROM; and
wherein, during the system initialization, said system receives an upgraded image and flashes said ROM with the upgraded image if the upgraded image is available for said ROM.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said system receives the upgraded image from said server.
5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said system receives a link to another server which provides the upgraded image.
6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said message includes an indication of the version of the ROM's current image.
7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said message includes an indication of the class of the ROM.
8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said message includes an encryption key to be used to help assure the authenticity of the image.

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9. (Previously Presented) A method of upgrading an image on a ROM, comprising:

performing a system initialization of a system containing the ROM, wherein the system initialization further comprises a booting of the system where the system further comprises a CPU; and

while performing said system initialization, transmitting a message to a server to determine whether an upgraded image exists for the ROM; and

receiving an upgraded image and flashing the ROM during said system initialization.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 further including, during the system initialization, receiving the upgraded image from said server.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 further including, during the system initialization, receiving a link from said server, said link pointing to another server that contains said upgraded image.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said message includes an indication of the version of the ROM's current image.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said message includes an encryption key to be used to help assure the authenticity of the image.

15. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said message includes an indication of class of the ROM.

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16. (Currently Amended) A ROM image system, comprising:
a server; and
a database accessible by said server, said database storing
information regarding ROM images; and
wherein said server receives a message from a computer that is
currently undergoing a system initialization to determine if an upgrade exists for the
computer's ROM image, uses said information to determine if an upgrade is
available for the computer's ROM image and transmits a response message to the
computer indicating whether an upgrade is available during the system initialization
of the computer, wherein said response includes an upgraded ROM image, and
wherein the upgraded ROM image is installed during the system initialization of the
computer.
17. (Canceled)
18. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein said response includes a
pointer to where an upgraded image is located.
19. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein said pointer includes a URL.
20. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein said pointer includes an IP
address.
21. (Canceled)
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)

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26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) An enterprise computing system, comprising:
a plurality of computers, each having a programmable ROM;
a proxy enterprise ROM server to which the computers couple, said
proxy enterprise ROM server communicating with a network external to the
enterprise; and
wherein said proxy enterprise ROM server includes a first storage area
for an untested ROM image update, and a second storage area for an approved
ROM image update, and at least one of said computers, during its initialization,
checks the second storage area for the approved a ROM image update to be
installed in the at least one of said computers, wherein the approved ROM image
update comprises the untested ROM image update that has undergone at least one
suitable approval test.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 1, wherein the
system sends the message to the server coupled to the network to determine
whether the upgraded image is available for said ROM upon each occurrence of the
system initialization.